

Application No. 10/647,9033
Amendment dated September 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 2, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A stapler comprising:
 - a body having a longitudinal axis, a rear, and a front axially aligned with the longitudinal axis of said body, said body including a staple storage compartment; ~~and~~
 - a handle depending downwardly from said body, said handle having a thenar fitting concave curve adapted to conform to the natural curvature of the thenar eminence of the palm of a user's hand and facing said rear of said body and a proximal extension extending rearwardly proximate the juncture of said body and said handle, said proximal extension adapted to extend over the dorsum of the user's hand and having a bottom surface adapted to contact the top of the dorsum, said body having at least a pair of sides at least in part parallel to the longitudinal axis of said body forming a grasping area for the thumb and the index finger of the user's hand, said grasping area adapted to permit the placement of the thumb and the index finger of the user's hand on said grasping area generally parallel to and facing one another and generally in line with the longitudinal axis of said body, whereby when the user's hand is placed on said handle, the dorsum is in contact with said bottom surface of said proximal extension, the thenar eminence is in contact with said thenar fitting concave curve, and the index finger and the thumb of the user's hand are placed adjacent to said body and parallel to the longitudinal axis of said body; and
 - a mechanism for ejecting staples from said staple storage compartment.
2. (original) The stapler of claim 1, wherein said handle has recessed portions for receiving the lower fingers of the user's hand.

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3. (previously presented) The stapler of claim 1, wherein the lower portion of said handle has a second concave curve with a concavity facing said body of said stapler.
4. (previously presented) The stapler of claim 1, wherein said body comprises a stapler ejection opening across the front of said body.
5. (original) The stapler of claim 1, wherein said proximal extension extends at least one inch over the dorsum of the user's hand.
6. (currently amended) The stapler of claim 1, wherein said mechanism comprises~~further comprising~~ a trigger.
7. (original) The stapler of claim 1, wherein said handle includes a plurality of indentations adapted to accommodate fingers other than the thumb and index finger when said stapler is being grasped by the user's hand.
8. (original) The stapler of claim 7, wherein said handle includes three indentations adapted to separate three fingers from each other while said stapler is being grasped by the user.
9. (original) The stapler of claim 7, wherein said handle includes a trigger at least in part within one of the indentations.
10. (original) The stapler of claim 9, wherein the exposed surface of said trigger is within the confines of one of the indentations.
11. (original) The stapler of claim 1, wherein said handle is adapted to accommodate at least two fingers of a user and including a trigger adapted to be actuated by a user's middle finger.
12. (original) A method for grasping a stapler having a body with a longitudinal axis, a concave thenar fitting rear handle depending from the body, a storage compartment extending from the body generally along the longitudinal axis of the body, the body having a grasping area for the thumb and the index finger of a user's hand, a proximal extension extending rearwardly proximate the juncture of the body and the handle, the proximal extension having a bottom surface

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adapted to contact the top of the dorsum of the user's hand, said method comprising the steps of:

placing the handle of the stapler in the palm of the user's hand with the thenar eminence of the palm in contact with the concave thenar fitting handle;
placing the dorsum of the user's hand in contact with the bottom surface of the proximal extension;
positioning the index finger and the thumb opposing one another along the body of the stapler; and
placing the three remaining fingers of the user's hand around the handle of the stapler.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the positioning step includes the sub-step of aligning the index finger and the thumb opposing one another along the body of the stapler at the grasping area such that the index finger and the thumb point at the intended target of said stapler.
14. (previously presented) The stapler of claim 1, wherein the staple storage compartment is axially aligned with the longitudinal axis of said body.
15. (new) The stapler of claim 1, further comprising an opening located on said front of said body for permitting staples to exit said staple storage compartment.
16. (new) The stapler of claim 15, wherein said opening is a slot.